

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-110 are pending.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following eight groups of claims:

- I. claims 1-68 and 99-107 (in part), drawn to a method of preparing the diol of Formula (II);
- II. claims 1-68 and 99-107 (in part), drawn to a method of preparing the acylated diol of Formula (IV);
- III. claims 69-83 and 108-110, drawn to a compound of Formula (IV);
- IV. claims 84-87 (in part), drawn to a method of isolating and purifying a compound of Formula (IV);
- V. claims 84-87 (in part), drawn to a method of isolating and purifying a compound of Formula (II);
- VI. claims 88-91 (in part), drawn to a method of isolating and purifying an acyl derivative of a compound of Formula (IV);
- VII. claims 88-91 (in part), drawn to a method of isolating and purifying an acyl derivative of a compound of Formula (II); and
- VIII. claims 92-98, drawn to a method of preparing escitalopram of Formula (I).

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In order to be fully responsive, Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I for further prosecution - i.e., claims 1-68 and 99-107, drawn to a method of preparing the diol of formula (II).

The Examiner has further stated that, if the claims of Group I are chosen, the following elections of species will be required: (i) election of a single compound of Formula (II) with each

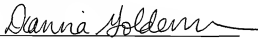
substituent specifically identified; (ii) election of a method of preparation corresponding to the elected compound of Formula (II); (iii) election of a single acylating agent; and (iv) election of a single hydrolase enzyme.

Accordingly, Applicant hereby elects the following: (i) a compound of Formula (II) in which R is cyano, Z is dimethylaminomethyl, Hal is fluorine, and the dotted line is a single bond; (ii) the method of preparing the elected compound by subjecting a racemic compound of Formula (II) to selective enzymatic acylation in accordance with step (a) of claim 1; (iii) the acylating agent, vinyl butyrate; and (iv) the hydrolase enzyme, *Pseudomonas* sp. Lipoprotein lipase.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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